

St. John's United Methodist Church
Monthly Newsletter

Tidings

DECEMBER 2021

Gratitude
turns what we have
into enough



It was Not a Silent Night (Advent Sermon Series)

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|---|--------------|
| (11/28) Beginning With the End | Acts 1:8-14 |
| (12/5) The Piercing of Mary's Soul | Luke 2:33-35 |
| (12/12) Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished | Luke 2:41-51 |
| (12/19) Mary, Full of Grace | Luke 1:26-33 |
| (12/24) It was Not a Silent Night | Luke 2:1-7 |
| (12/26) Christmas Meditation | |



A word from Pastor Jeff:

"Why do I keep getting knocked down so often this year?"

Have you been knocked down lately? Or had the wind knocked out of you in a crisis? Thanksgiving weekend will feature a whole lot of football. If the game is on at your house, there will be cheering and yelling every time a player gets tackled (knocked down). Anyone who follows the Bears will know the name of Walter Payton. He was one of the greatest running backs of all time. In fact, over his career, he rushed for over 9 miles!! That's an incredible statistic, but do you know what that means? It means he ran with the ball for over 9 miles of rushing, but it also means he got knocked down every 4.3 yards along the way. That's a lot of time on the ground looking up. Yet he was celebrated for this accomplishment. In this way, football is a lot like life in that respect. When we get knocked down, God calls us to get back up and keep running! I am encouraged by the following verses that even when we get knocked down in life... God invites us to look to Him with thanksgiving in our hearts.

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-18] *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

I love being one of your pastors,

Pastor Jeff Dadisman



This Thanksgiving, we invite you to respond with the special offering envelope (enclosed) towards the **Pastor's Fund at St. John's**. We use this money to meet a variety of needs during the year. When a family calls with a financial difficulty, this enables us to respond to their need. We have helped with medical needs, rent assistance, utilities and fuel for traveling to doctor appointments.

December is a busy month

but we hope you will join us for these special times...

November 28 — Family Advent Bedtime Devotions on **Facebook live** begin. These live videos will take place every Sunday in Advent. Join me live @ 7:30pm or catch the recording whenever is convenient for you.

December 4 — Angel Breakfast @9:30am. Join us for a time of crafts, breakfast, Advent wreaths, family pictures at the Christmas tree, and a special story time.

December 11 — Dress Rehearsal @9:30am for our all ages Christmas program .

December 12 — Christmas at St. John's UMC! @4:00 pm Church wide music program including "Let there Be Christmas" Cantata.

December 11 & 12 — Nativity Set pieces distribution at all worship services this weekend. Saturday @ 5:30pm, Sunday @9am & 11am. Drive-by pick-up will be available @12:15pm for our online worshippers. Please let us know if you plan to come at 12:15pm and we will make sure to have your pieces ready.

December 21 — Family Caroling @5pm-7pm

December 24 — Worship services @1pm Traditional, @7pm Contemporary (includes Children's Moments), & @10pm Traditional with Choir & Bells

SJUMC Wednesdays for Kids & Youth



Kids' Bible Club **4:30pm-5:30pm with the family meal at 5:15pm**. This time includes games, Bible lesson, and activity. Rides provided if needed. Pick ups 3p-4p and drop offs 5:45pm-6:15



"The Edge" Youth Group meets **Wednesdays from 5:30pm-7:30pm**. This time includes a meal, large group activity, message, and small group discussions. Rides provided if needed.

Pick ups 5:15pm-6:00pm and drop offs 7:30pm-8:30pm

Kid's Bible Club and Youth Group will be taking a CHRISTMAS BREAK on Wednesday December 22 and December 29.

Winter Weather Policy

Please note that we follow the Davenport Schools weather closure decisions. If there is to be a program or meeting and the schools are closed due to weather, we also have to cancel. We will send a text or phone call communication but if you see that the schools are closed, we most likely are too.

Feel free to call or text if you are unsure, and as always please use your own discretion if it is safe to travel...your safety comes first!



Advent begins – November 28 – 1st week of candle lighting

Saturday, December 4 – **Angel Breakfast** @ 9:30am

Friday, December 3 - **River Bend Bronze** @ 7:00

Saturday, December 4 – **River Bend Bronze** @ 2:30

Friday, December 10 - **Cool Yule** (7:00pm)

Saturday, December 11 – **Christmas Dinner @ The Center**

Sunday, December 12 - **Nativity pieces** given to children in all services

1. Saturday at Jesus Country
2. Sunday morning during worship
3. Sunday @ 12:15 for online worshippers

Sunday, December 12 – **Christmas Cantata** @ 4:00 (will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube)

Sunday, December 19 – **Blue Christmas** worship (4:00pm)

Friday, December 24 – **Christmas Eve** services (1PM, 7PM, and 10PM)
All services will include carol singing and candle lighting.

Missions Update

October Mission Offering report

World Wide Communion Sunday : \$210.00

Student Day: \$50.00

UMCOR: \$25.00

Manna for Missions : \$450.00

December Missions Offering (December 4 and 5)

The first weekend of December, we have an opportunity to give to the **Lit-Lit** program, an educational program in Nigeria's rural areas for adults who have never been able to attend school. The people learn to read and write in Hausa in an 8-week course of study. The teaching kit includes index cards, pencils, chalkboard, and a Hausa Bible -- \$8.00 for the Bible and \$11.00 for the whole kit. It is a real help and opens a whole new world to the people in Nigeria. Pray about your gift. You may want to give a kit yourself or help give 40 kits totaling \$440.00. Mark your check or envelope "Lit Lit Kits." Thank you very much!



Our 2019 tree



Our 2020 tree

We're dreaming of a White Christmas: Let's build up a TP Christmas Tree again!

We will be building the toilet paper tree again this year. Please bring your donations of packages of toilet paper to the church office throughout December. Your donations will be delivered to the Food Pantry after the holidays.

Financial Update

by Karen Weimer, Church Treasurer

The month of October has closed and the financial results at that point show a year-to-date balance of about \$43,000 to the good. We are glad to report that the boiler has now been fixed, just in time for cold weather. Early this year the church received a loan from the Small Business Administration which can be turned into a grant if all conditions are met. The forgiveness application has been submitted and we are awaiting the decision of the SBA on turning the loan into a grant. Looking ahead to 2022, we have received 119 Estimate of Giving cards and hope to receive another 25 cards. That would bring us up to the 144 cards received last year. The pledged dollars plus an estimate of offering from people who do not pledge but make regular donations covers about 90% of our expense budget for 2022. This is a very positive position as we make plans for the next year. Thank you to everyone who has returned their Estimate of Giving card that allows us to be at this point early in our campaign.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM) 4:30pm Kid's Club (Lower Level) 5:30pm Youth Group (The Wheel) 6:30pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM)	2 5:45pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	3 7:00pm River Bend Bronze (Sanctuary)	4 COMMUNION LIT-LIT OFFERING 9:30am Angel Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) 2:30pm River Bend Bronze Concert (Sanctuary) 4:00pm Jesus Country Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship (Fellowship Hall)
5 COMMUNION 9:00am Classic Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)	6 6:30pm Missions (Wesley Room)	7 1:00pm Club of 89 - Lynne Harbison (Parlor, Parlor Kitchen)	8 10:00am UMW Board (Parlor) 12:00pm Priscilla Circle (Wesley Room) 1:00pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM) 4:30pm Kid's Club (Lower Level) 5:30pm Youth Group (The Wheel) 6:30pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM)	9 5:45pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	10 Tidings Deadline 7:00pm Cool Yule (Parlor)	11 8:00am Asbury Cooking for Center's Christmas lunch (Kitchen - Fellowship Hall) 9:00am Emmaus Reunion Group (Parlor) 4:00pm Jesus Country Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship (Fellowship Hall)
12 Navity Pieces 9:00am Classic Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary) 1:00pm Cafe on Vine Meal Preparation (Kitchen - Fellowship Hall) 4:00pm Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)	13 6:00pm The Center Ministry Meeting (The Center) 7:00pm SPPRC (Conference Room)	14 10:45am History Committee (Parish House - History Room) 2:00pm Joanna Circle (Parlor, Parlor Kitchen)	15 1:00pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM) 4:30pm Kid's Club (Lower Level) 5:30pm Youth Group (The Wheel) 6:30pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM)	16 8:30am Tidings Assembly (Parlor) 1:00pm PUNCH (Fellowship Hall) 5:45pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	17	18 9:00am Emmaus Reunion Group (Parlor) 4:00pm Jesus Country Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship (Fellowship Hall)
19 Food Pantry Sunday 9:00am Classic Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary) 4:00pm Blue Christmas (Sanctuary)	20 6:30pm Steering Committee (Conference Room) 7:30pm Church Council (Parlor)	21 2:00pm Deborah Circle (Parlor) 5:00pm Family Caroling 6:00pm Dorcas Circle - Diane Rogan (Wesley Room)	22 1:00pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM) 4:30pm NO Kid's Club - Christmas Break (Lower Level) 5:30pm NO Youth Group - Christmas Break (The Wheel) 6:30pm Advent Study (Parlor, ZOOM)	23 5:45pm Bell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Choir Room)	24 Christmas Eve services (1-7-10)	25 No Jesus Country Service
26 9:00am Classic Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00am NO Sunday School - Christmas Break 11:00am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)	27	28	29 4:30pm NO Kid's Club - Christmas Break (Lower Level) 5:30pm NO Youth Group - Christmas Break (The Wheel)	30	31	



Keep your eyes (and ears) open for Advent/Christmas musical offerings!

Each Advent Sunday in December, the **Chancel Bells** and **Chancel Choir** will be sharing music in worship.

Riverbend Bronze (local "auditioned" handbell choir) will be performing at St. John's on Friday December 3 at 7:00 and Saturday December 4 at 2:30. Hope you can come to one of these performances. We have 4 of our St. John's bell players, now in this group, and our Chancel Bell choir will perform a piece with them. (At least one of the concerts should be live-streamed.)

Cool Yule, with the "almost" full original Celebration Band, will be in Fellowship Hall on Friday December 10 at 7:00.

St. John's Christmas Cantata "Let There Be Christmas" will be Sunday, December 12 at 4:00. Chancel Bells, children/youth, and chancel choir accompanied by a wind ensemble, will be sharing music of the season.

Then you are cordially invited to the reception following this concert: cookies, coffee and apple cider.

Music will, of course, be special on **Christmas Eve**, featuring different musicians at 1:00, 7:00 and 10:00. We invite you to come in person to "experience" the season with your St. John's Family. (Or check in on line, so we know you are with us.)

The St. John's Musicians wish you an Advent season that strengthens your resolve to "WAIT" for the coming Messiah.

And may we all be ready to greet HIM on Christmas with our whole "being": mind, heart, and soul.

May God Bless you this season!

 *Mitzi Harris*



We started our reverse offering for the Food Pantry in November. Clients visiting the Food Pantry will have a wide selection to choose from. I was overwhelmed by the variety of items our congregation brought the first week. We collected 406 items with 163 being items used for Thanksgiving meals. Thank you to all who donated. I will have a final count in January's newsletter as we still have one more week to bring items.

We collected \$395.58 in monetary donations. We also had an additional offering of \$99.82 from the Eco-Ministries Mission Team.

The Food Pantry can use bread, eggs and paper products.

Have a blessed Merry Christmas. Be safe and well.

Food Pantry Update

ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY @ THE CENTER



by Sharon Imming

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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BUILDING POLICY UPDATE (May 20, 2021)

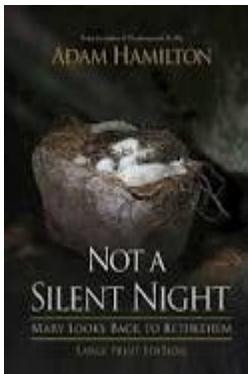
We ask that you please wear a mask in our building unless you are fully vaccinated.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5:30PM Saturday Jesus Country in Fellowship Hall
9:00AM Sunday on WOC 1420 AM radio (previous week's sermon)
9:00AM Sunday Classic Worship in the Sanctuary
(simulcast online on Facebook, YouTube, website)
11:00 AM Sunday Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary
(simulcast online on Facebook, YouTube, website)

The **St. John's Church Foundation** wish to thank the following members for their donations to the Foundation Birthday Fund: Linda Jantz, Betty and Bill Stone, Barb Groenenboom, Bob Fulton, Dean O'Neill, Ruth McGinnis, and Don Buser.

ADVENT STUDY: Not a Silent Night



We will be offering a DVD study that goes deeper after the Sunday sermons. We invite you to order a personal copy of this study guide:

<https://www.amazon.com/Not-Silent-Night-Bethlehem-Advent/dp/1426771843>

Introduction: Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him and so much more. The book, "**Not a Silent Night**," will be our guide for the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas. There are weekly small group opportunities on Wednesday as well as the weekend sermons to consider the story of Jesus' birth from the unique perspective of Mary. Our series starts at the end, with Mary at the Crucifixion & Resurrection; then we move back in time towards the birth of the Christ child in a stable. Come along as we consider the story of this birth through Mary's eyes.

RSVP in church office:

Wednesdays @ 1:00 (Zoom or in person)
Wednesdays @ 6:30 (Zoom or in person)

Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities

December 24 Christmas Eve services

All services will include carols and candle lighting

1:00 PM Traditional Service

7:00 PM Contemporary Service

10:00 PM Traditional Service